

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain Raises Funds for Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention

MANAMA—October 14, 2011—Bahrain is "thinking pink" for International Breast Cancer Awareness Month with several large-scale breast cancer prevention fundraisers planned for this weekend.

Tomorrow, citizens will gather at Bahrain City Center for "Kick Up Your Heels," a 3k non-competitive walk to raise money for local nonprofit Think Pink Bahrain. With the proceeds, Think Pink Bahrain will donate an MRI machine to the Salmaniya Medical Complex for breast cancer screening.

"All of us are enthusiastically tying our laces for the 'Kick up your Heels' walkathon and we encourage everyone to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month by walking, making a donation, wearing a pink ribbon and helping us maintain the strong community spirit at Bahrain City Centre," Bahrain City Centre Asset Director Ray Scott said.

Meanwhile, golfers teed off at the Awali Golf Club today for a stroke play competition also to contribute to Think Pink Bahrain's cause.

"We are calling it a Golf festival because in addition to the golfing there will be food, beverages, entertainment and dancing," Organizing Committee Head Martin Allison said. "It's about having a fun day of golf and at the same time raising money for a worthwhile cause."

Those participating in and contributing toward this year's events are helping to put a cure even closer within reach, Think Pink Bahrain Founder and Chairwoman Julie Sprakel said.

"Breast cancer is not race, religion or class-orientated. It is only with research, education, early intervention and public awareness that we can fight this disease," she said.

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Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
Contact: Rose Sager
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This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's Gulf Air Launches In-Flight Live Global TV

MANAMA—October 13, 2011—Starting next month, Gulf Air, Bahrain's premiere airline, will offer Sky Hub in-flight technology, making broadband connectivity possible even at altitudes of 37,000 feet.

"This is another important milestone in our customer service journey and we are bringing, for the first time in the world, fully-integrated broadband connectivity offering high speed Internet, voice over Internet, streaming videos and the world's first in-flight live TV satellite stream across continents," Gulf Air CEO Samer Majali said.

Sky Hub, a Gulf Air, Panasonic, Deutsche Telekom and Aeromobile venture, will enable access to email, text messaging, phone calls, web surfing and live TV streaming, in addition to Gulf Air's regular in-flight entertainment.

Although the project costs several million, Majali says the system will pay for itself.

"It puts us in the forefront of competition and we will recoup the investment through funds of passengers using it during flights," he said.

So far, one aircraft is equipped with functioning Sky Hub service and a new plane will be fitted with the equipment every two weeks. Gulf Air expects to have the entire fleet outfitted within five months.

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Bahrain's Ambassador to the U.S. Welcomes U.S. Support for Bahrain's Reconciliation Efforts

WASHINGTON (July 3, 2011)- Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States Houda Nonoo welcomed White House comments regarding the fruitful beginning of Bahrain's National Dialogue.

The White House expressed confidence in Bahrain's initiation of the National Dialogue in order to work towards a more democratic Bahrain and noted the importance of opposition groups joining in the talks. "The United States commends King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa for his leadership in initiating the dialogue. We also commend the decision by Al Wefaq, Bahrain's largest opposition group, to join the dialogue," the White House statement said.

"We urge all Bahrainis to seize this opportunity to forge a more just future together. It is important that government and political leaders create a positive atmosphere to help promote a successful dialogue process," the statement continued.

The United States also welcomed His Majesty King Hamad's Royal Commission which will investigate and report on events connected with the unrest of recent months. The White House said, "By providing an independent assessment of what happened and identifying those responsible, the Royal Commission will play an essential role in advancing reconciliation, justice, and peace in Bahrain."

Bahrain's Ambassador to the United States Houda Nonoo expressed her gratitude for the U.S. support for Bahrain's reconciliation efforts. "This is an important time in Bahrain's history. We have an opportunity to reconcile political differences and work towards a stronger democracy for all Bahrainis," Ambassador Nonoo said. "With our partner, the United States, by our side throughout this process, I am confident these talks will help to make progress on important issues we are currently facing," the ambassador continued.

Bahrain's National Dialogue began on July 2, 2011.

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This has been distributed by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. More information is available at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Source: Kingdom of Bahrain
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's economy boosted with new international airport expansion

MANAMA – June 27, 2011 – Bahrain International Airport (BIA) will begin a new expansion program that is expected to increase the airport's capacity by 50 percent.

"The plans we are initiating for an expanded international airport are essential to Bahrain's continued development, not only in providing businesses in Bahrain with the access they demand for the future, but also in bolstering the growing aviation and logistics industry in the kingdom," said Khalid Al Rumaihi, Chairman of the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) in an interview with Arabian Business News.

The entire expansion program is expected to take four years and add 40,000 square meters, five new gates and forty check-in counters, boosting the airport capacity from 9 million to 13.5 million passengers, reports Arabian Business News. The airport which is owned by Mumtalakat, the country's sovereign wealth fund, has awarded engineering consulting firm, Dar Al Handasah, BD 4.4m (\$11.6m) to begin the expansion project.

This project – which will help drive business investment and infrastructure development – follows recent investment in housing, water and education following the lifting of the State of National Safety by His Majesty King Hamad.

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Source: Kingdom of Bahrain

Media Contact: Matt Lauer, (703) 463-1841

This release has been issued by Qorvis Communications on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain. For more information please contact the US Department of Justice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's National Dialogue Gets Underway, Progresses Smoothly

MANAMA—July 6, 2011—Bahrain's National Dialogue got off to a smooth start yesterday, with more than 300 delegates, including 18 political societies, participating, Gulf News reports.

"All the participants are actively debating the issues and talks are taking place in a very positive atmosphere," Eisa Abdul Rahman, National Dialogue spokesman, said after the sessions.

The first day of the dialogue produced a streamlined process for how sessions will be run as the talks progress, ensuring equal representation among interested parties. Initial session discussions focused on Bahrain's economy and how to improve it, youth affairs as well as women's and children's rights.

The National Dialogue, an initiative of the government, seeks to resolve social, political and religious differences and inspire reform that will shape the country's future.

"At the end of the day this isn't about Shiite and Sunni, it's about Bahrain," one delegate told Gulf Daily News. "It's about Bahrain and the rule of law. But law needs to be shaped by the people it represents and this National Dialogue, Inshallah, is the perfect forum to discuss our governance processes."

Talks will resume tomorrow and will continue three times a week for at least the next four weeks.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bahrain's Investment Business Firm Sector Grows Despite Global Economic Uncertainty

MANAMA—July 7, 2011—Bahrain's investment business firm sector saw strong first quarter growth with an increase of more than 40 percent in managed assets compared to last year. Investments as principle also climbed to BD122.6 million over last year's BD73.5 million or the equivalent of \$325.22 million.

"This sector has shown substantial growth since its inception and still is promising further growth in the coming few years," CBB Executive Director of Financial Supervision Abdul Rahman Al Baker said in an interview with Gulf Daily News, referring to the creation of the investment business license (IB).

Introduced in 2006 by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), the IB license replaced an antiquated and cumbersome licensing process for firms wishing to provide investment products and services like asset management and brokering and advisory services. Since the program's beginning, the country has seen the number of IB's grow from 22 in 2006 to 51 as of this month.

"The creation of this license has attracted a number of prominent regional and international financial institutions to establish investment business firms in Bahrain," he said.

Despite recent global economic uncertainty, CBB Director of Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate Mohammed Ayman Al Tajer remained optimistic about Bahrain's ultimate recovery and growth.

"The global economic crisis had put pressure on the region's capital markets and investors," he said. "However, it is an established fact that any crisis or slowdown is a time phase of a given economic cycle and problems would always bring about opportunities."

"In times like this stakeholders need to be optimistic about the future and continuously vigilant of the available opportunities," he added.

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